

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020475
ORIGIN AF-08

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:RCB

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

AF:WESCHAUFLE

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 020475

TOVIP 27

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ADDRESSED THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT TODAY ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. VORSTER REVIEWED THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE PRESENT IMPASSE, ALLOWING THAT THE BREAKDOWN WAS NOT ENTIRELY SMITH'S FAULT. SMITH WENT TO GENEVA ON AN UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS OFFER OF A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATED; IT WAS NOT. VORSTER SAID THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. ALTHOUGH HE WILL NOT SUPPORT A BOYCOTT OR CLOSE SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDERS TO RHODESIA, HE WILL GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO HELP IN THE PROCESS. BETRAYING SOME IRRITATION WITH THE PRESSURES BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON SOUTH AFRICA, VORSTER DID NOT CLOSE HIS OPTIONS AND MADE CLEAR WE COULD
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WORK WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN REACHING A SETTLEMENT.

2. PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA HAS REPLIED TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, WELCOMING OUR COMMITMENT TO A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. HE SUGGESTS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESUME THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH THE NATIONALISTS ALONE

AND REACH A SETTLEMENT WHICH COULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE FORCED
UPON SMITH. THE BRITISH PROBABLY WOULD NOT PROCEED ON
THIS BASIS NOR WOULD SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORT IT. NYERERE
WELCOMED CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERN-
MENTS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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